



Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 425 – Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms*
Judiciary Committee
February 9, 2022

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, synagogues, and social services agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders. The JCRC is focused on promoting social justice and intergroup relations and combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

Since 1975, the JCRC has consistently supported State gun control legislation and advocated for the most stringent regulations on the purchase, sale, and possession of firearms. House Bill 425 alters a certain definition of “firearm” to include an unfinished frame or receiver and prohibits a person from purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an unfinished frame or receiver, or possessing a firearm on or by Jan. 1, 2023, unless it has been imprinted with a serial number by the manufacturer. HB 425 would require the Secretary of State Police to suspend a dealer’s license if the dealer is charged with a certain crime and to revoke a dealer’s license if the dealer is convicted of a crime. A violation would be a misdemeanor with a sentence of up to three years in prison or a fine of up to \$10,000 dollars.

Gun related violence threatens the well-being of all our citizens. Therefore, the JCRC supports all efforts including HB 425 to reduce gun-related violence. Our positions on gun control are deeply rooted in the Jewish beliefs in the sanctity of life and the abhorrence of senseless violence. The use of these so called “ghost guns” has risen dramatically in the last several years and this proliferation is making communities unsafe and has become a weapon of choice by many gun traffickers. For these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on HB 425.